NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

CONNECTICUT/RHODE ISLAND

WETLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

(acre)

CODE 644

DEFINITION

Retaining, developing, or managing habitat for wetland wildlife.

PURPOSE

To maintain, develop, or improve habitat for waterfowl, fur-bearers, or other wetland associated flora and fauna.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, lakes and other water bodies where wetland associated wildlife habitat can be managed. This practice applies to natural wetlands and water bodies as well as wetlands that may have been previously restored (657), enhanced (659), and /or created (658).

CRITERIA

Identify species management goals and objectives. For the desired species, identify the types, amount, and distribution of habitat elements and the management actions necessary to achieve the management objectives.

Native plant will be used wherever possible.

The landowner shall obtain all necessary local, state and federal permits that apply.

The site shall be monitored to determine the effectiveness or condition of the resource.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider effects of movement of dissolved substances on groundwater and on downstream surface waters. Consider the potential effects of hazardous materials expected or known to occur on the site.

Consider effects of management actions on compliance with state and federal hunting regulation (e.g., baiting).

Consider effects of management on non-target fish and wildlife species and Threatened and Endangered Species.

Consider effects of livestock grazing on runoff, infiltration, and wetland vegetation.

Consider using artificial nesting structures that are designed for the region.

Consider locating the management practice adjacent to existing wetlands and other water bodies.

Consider the impact of elevated wildlife uses on adjacent lands (e.g., crop depredation).

Consider effect of volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, and transpiration on the water budget.

Consider effects on downstream flows or aquifers that would affect other water uses or users.

Consider adjacent wetlands or water bodies that contribute to wetland system complexity and diversity, decrease habitat fragmentation, and maximize use of the site by wetland-associated wildlife.

Consider effects on movement of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff and/or wind.

NRCS, CT-RI
March, 2000

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Document how habitat needs will be provided for the desired kinds of wildlife: required depth of water during the different seasons; types and sizes of structures required; desired native plant species and the means of establishing and maintaining them. Specific information may be provided using appropriate job sheets or written documentation in the conservation plan.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

A plan for operation and maintenance at a minimum should include:

1) Designation of base plots and periodic inventories conducted to monitoring, as applicable, the target vegetation, the target animal(s), and target environmental factors.

2) Management of structural and vegetative measures.

Haying and livestock grazing plans shall be implemented so as to allow the establishment, development, and management of wetland and associated upland vegetation for the intended purpose.

Biological control of pests (e.g., using predator or parasitic species) shall be implemented where available and feasible.